

**California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Los Angeles Region**

**Executive Officer's Report
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*** The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption

*** For a list of simple ways to reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see the tips at: <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/news/echallenge.html>

Claremont Board and Care

On September 2, 1997, the City of Claremont filed a petition with the Superior Court, County of Los Angeles, to seek Injunctive Relief against the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board). The petition requested the Court to overturn this Regional Board's Waste Discharge Requirement Order No. 97-114, and Cease and Desist Order No. 97-115, for the Claremont Board and Care Facility, adopted on August 25, 1997.

Underground Storage Tank Section

As of August 1, 1997, the Underground Tank Section consists of three units. The units are designated as the Los Angeles River, the San Gabriel River and the Ventura and Coastal. The cases assigned to units and the assignments within the units are based upon geographical areas. We expect individual staff members to correlate data on adjacent cases to maximize knowledge with the minimum expense to the responsible parties. Reassignment of staff assigned to cases has caused a reduction in productivity in the section during the past month. This was expected and should only be temporary.

Board staff has completed production of a series of 145 maps that cover the entire Region. The maps are of eight mile square areas produced on 11 by 17 inch sheets of paper. These maps allow the staff to make better determinations of which tanks sites may impact which drinking water wells or may be the cause of upstream problems at any particular site. This is now the best information available to provide service to the public at large and the various potential responsible parties associated with underground fuel tanks. The ultimate goal is to have a completely interactive Geographic Information System (GIS) for all tank activities. We do not expect that to be achievable with existing resources for many months, but we hope to complete the task before the end of the fiscal year.

Disagreements between Mobil and the City of Santa Monica continue to hinder progress on the remediation at the Arcadia Wellfield. The most recent dispute occurred during the initial hours of a pump test by Mobil on the City of Santa Monica's Arcadia Well # 4. Mobil took action to get different data than had been previously reviewed and approved. This was done without prior notice to the City or the Board of their intent to change procedures. When the City found out the act had

The dispute has now been settled and the test pumping is expected to proceed the week of September 15, 1997.

NPDES Permit Meeting with USEPA

Senior staff from USEPA met with senior Regional Board staff in their continuing efforts to coordinate with staff responsible for managing water quality and NPDES permitting programs. USEPA requested an update on the Watershed Management Initiative (WMI), especially as it relates to basin planning and NPDES permitting. Other topics of interest were streamlining of the permit process by using general permits, Chloride Policy, mixing zones, 208 consistency, and the City of Long Beach appeal of the Los Angeles County Municipal Stormwater/Urban Runoff NPDES Permit. One of the revelations at the meeting was that USEPA is again going to do periodic NPDES program reviews at the Regional Boards. They will probably begin with the Central Valley Region later this year, the Los Angeles and San Diego Regions early next year, and the other Regions later in the year. The review will cover the major NPDES dischargers and will probably focus on procedures for determining compliance and on appropriate and timely enforcement actions.

Septic Tank Workshop

Regional Board staff is planning a workshop in December 1997, to solicit ideas from interested parties concerning the development and implementation in this Region of a policy regarding the use of septic tanks.

Chloride and Salinity Issues

During development of the Chloride Policy, many parties expressed concerns over a salt imbalance in Region 4 and the resulting risk of salt accumulations in inland surface and ground waters. Accordingly, the Regional Board incorporated salinity tracking measures into the Chloride Policy, to better assess significant sources of salts. As follow-up, Regional Board staff sponsored workshops for publicly-owned treatment works (POTWs) and water suppliers, on September 11 (Ventura) and September 12 (Monterey Park). Tracking measures should be implemented by early 1998.

Drinking Water (MUN) Policy

Staff will be conducting a second set of informal planning sessions in late October. During these sessions, concerned parties will attempt to reach consensus on designations of drinking water that currently apply to several waterbodies, including the Los Angeles River and Malibu Creek. Using comments and ideas from concerned parties, staff will brief the Board on a draft Drinking Water Policy prior to initiating formal public (CEQA) review.

Calleguas Creek Watershed

The US EPA solicited proposals for its sustainable communities grants program last month. Staff worked with the City of Simi Valley and the Calleguas Municipal Water District to submit a proposal for a \$250,000 grant which--if awarded--would primarily be used to coordinate various stakeholder activities (e.g. flood control efforts, water quality measures, recreational and habitat restoration efforts) throughout the watershed over the next three years.

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) NPDES Permit - Status of Retrofit Projects in Operation Segments 1 and 2A

At the May 12, 1997 Board meeting, the Board adopted a Time Schedule Order that required MTA to fully comply with all effluent limitations in NPDES Permit No. CA0064092 by September 1, 1997 for waste discharges into Los Angeles River from Segment 1 outfalls. In order to comply with this

requirement, MTA designed retrofits for all Segments 1 outfalls to be diverted into the City of Los Angeles sanitary sewers. These retrofits were to be completed by the end of August 1997. Recently, MTA reported to Board's staff that the discharge outfalls in Segment 1 have been diverted to the sanitary sewer system on August 9, 1997 thus eliminating all noncompliant discharges to the storm drain. Consequently, MTA is in compliance with the Time Schedule Order for Segment 1 outfalls.

Under the same Time Schedule Order, MTA was also required to comply with all effluent limitations by March 1, 1998 for waste discharges into Ballona Creek from Segment 2A outfalls. Currently, MTA is in the process of retrofitting all Segment 2A outfalls to be diverted into the sewers. These retrofits are scheduled to be completed by the end of February 1998.

Database Test Status

On September 8, the final test version of the permit-tracking portion of our new data management system was installed. This version included a conversion of the existing Waste Discharge System (WDS) data to the new system. The final step of the test (scheduled for September) will consist of entering actual permit tracking data into both systems and confirming that the new system will meet our state reporting requirements. If this test is successful, we will switch to the new system by the end of September.

Calleguas Creek Watershed

The Calleguas Creek Watershed Management Plan Habitat/Recreation/Open Space Subcommittee met on August 19. The California Coastal Conservancy has been awarded a grant for preparation of a Calleguas Creek Watershed Wetland Restoration Plan which will be closely coordinated with the Habitat Subcommittee and overall management committee. Some members of the subcommittee participated in a tour of the watershed's potential wetlands restoration sites on August 27.

The Water Quality/Water Resources Subcommittee is in the process of drafting a Water Resources/Water Quality Chapter in the Calleguas Creek Watershed Management Plan. As a first step, subcommittee members are developing a list of their goals and objectives for water quality and water resources. This subcommittee's next meeting will be on September 26.

The Flood Protection/Sediment Management Subcommittee met on August 11. The group is developing a list of flood control/sedimentation considerations.

Another Public Information/Education Subcommittee meeting has not yet been scheduled. The Management Plan Steering Committee met on July 30 and is creating a timeline for watershed management plan development. The group will meet next in October. The full Management Plan Committee met on August 6. The meeting included a number of presentations as well as subcommittee reports. The next meeting of the full Management committee is scheduled for November 5 at 9:30 AM at the Ventura County Government Center. Information about the management committee and its subcommittees can be found at "www.calleguas.com".

Staff is waiting for another draft of the Calleguas Creek Characterization Study workplan from the watershed's dischargers. It should be available in September.

Los Angeles River Watershed

The Los Angeles/San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council met on August 20. The Council is in the process of finalizing a five-year strategic plan. Meetings are generally held at the Los Angeles County Public Works facility in Alhambra at 900 S. Fremont Avenue. The Watershed Council has a number of committees including Finance and Representation, Three-Year Watershed Study

(interaction with LA River Task Force), Stakeholder Programs, Public Education and Outreach, Projects, and Research. The Finance and Representation Committee has made a plea for financial support for the Watershed Council. The Los Angeles River may be considered for American Heritage River designation. An additional committee, the Scientific Advisory Committee, has been formed.

The Los Angeles River Watershed Task Force, which was formed to deal with flood control issues in the watershed, met on August 7. A Project Study Plan (Feasibility Phase) is being developed for a Los Angeles and San Gabriel River Watershed Study.

Santa Monica Bay Watershed

The Malibu Lagoon Task Force and Advisory Council met on August 12. The Lagoon Task Force has been meeting to find a resolution to lagoon water level problems. The Advisory Council has been in existence for a number of years and serves as a forum for discussion of local watershed issues. The Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains handed out a draft manual for management of horse corrals and pastures utilizing best management practices. The next Task Force and Advisory Council meetings will be held on October 21. Other Santa Monica Bay Watershed activities are covered under the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Project item.